

SITUATION REPORT NO. 5
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: June 8, 2005 Time: 7:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain, hail and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota beginning May 9, 2005, and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** The Ransom County Emergency Manager reported a woman drowned on June 8 in the rain-swollen Sheyenne River when her vehicle slid into the river after she lost control on a saturated riverbank near Fort Ransom. She escaped from her vehicle and swam 100 yards before drowning.
3. **DAMAGES:** On June 8, the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted several more waves of significant precipitation for later this week and into the weekend. Any additional rainfall will force rivers to climb beyond levels currently forecasted. Currently, the NWS has issued several flood warnings for the following rivers:
 - **Lower James River:** Approximately four inches of rain fell in LaMoure and Dickey Counties on June 7. Rivers and streams were on the rise on June 8, washing out roads and farmland. Minor flooding is forecasted downstream of LaMoure in the coming weeks.
 - **Cannonball River:** Rapid rises are forecasted in Sioux and Grant Counties after torrential rainfall of up to five inches on June 7. Any rain that falls will quickly run off as soils are saturated.
 - **Souris River:** Minor flooding is forecasted for the Westhope area.
 - **Red River of the North:** The forecast calls for significant flooding for the Wahpeton area. The main stem of the Red River will rise above its 17-foot flood stage at Fargo and will approach flood stage later in the week at East Grand Forks.

- **Pheasant Lake on Elm River:** Sandbagging operations are in effect to prevent dam failure caused by torrential rain in the area. If the dam fails, the NWS predicts rapid rises along the Elm River between Pheasant Lake and Elm Lake in Brown County, South Dakota. Lowland flooding is already occurring.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Wahpeton	10.0 feet	12.1 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 14.0 feet on June 9
Red River at Fargo	17.0 feet	17.4 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 23.9 feet on June 12
Red River at East Grand Forks	28.0 feet	22.4 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 26.8 feet on June 14
James River at Ludden Dam	12.0 feet	10.2 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 12.0 feet on June 14
Cannonball River at Breien	10.0 feet	8.4 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 10.5 feet on June 8
Souris River at Towner	52.0 feet	51.9 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 53.8 feet on June 8
Souris River at Bantry	11.0 feet	9.8 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 10.5 feet on June 10
Souris River near Westhope	10.0 feet	11.1 feet @ 9:00 a.m. June 8	Crest @ 11.4 feet on June 8 and remain nearly steady

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agriculture officials:

Bottineau County

The Bottineau County United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Board reported heavy rainfall of up to seven inches on June 1-2 is draining; however, the quantity of water will take several days to fully drain. Floodwaters impacted 150,000 acres of the county farm lands and 200 farms.

Dickey County

On June 8, the County Emergency Manager reported officials are having difficulty providing essential services of fire, police and ambulance support as a result of 10 inches of rain that fell within a three-day period. Much of the county is inaccessible due to standing water, bridge and culvert washouts, and the destruction of several county and township roads. These conditions have isolated rural residents and farms. A temporary shelter was opened at Trinity Bible College for those displaced by rain and flooding. Vast amounts of cropland have been inundated with standing water. High winds destroyed several grain bins, removed roofs from various farm buildings, and caused scattered areas of tree limb debris. Sandbagging operations and emergency pumping of residences are ongoing at the Pheasant Lake area.

Emmons County

On June 8, severe thunderstorms and high winds occurred the evening of June 7, with over two inches of rain falling in the Hague and Strasburg areas, accompanied by one-inch hail, which demolished one pole barn northeast of Hague. Rain accumulations of 1.5 inches fell in the Linton area and reports were given of 2.60 inches falling in the Hazelton and Braddock areas.

Hettinger County

The County Emergency Manager reported excessive rainfall June 6-7. The city of Regent experienced high water on Main Street after receiving three inches of rain. Other reports of rainfall are between one to four inches. There are no reports of serious damage.

LaMoure County

The city of Edgeley received severe flooding as a result of torrential rains that occurred on June 7. The city administrator stated that up to four inches of rain ran off higher elevations outside town and sent a wall of water three feet high rolling through low parts of Edgeley. Approximately 15 homes have flooded basements with three cave-ins. Local firefighters went door-to-door evacuating approximately 20 homes. Residents were sheltered at the N.D. National Guard armory, the local motel and with friends and relatives. N.D. Highway 34, in addition to several other roads, is flooded. County Highway and Sheriff's Department personnel are blocking roads, and the N.D. Highway Patrol is assisting with traffic control. Most of the water has receded; however, water still continues to run through the town. The sewer and water systems are still operational. A damage assessment is currently underway.

McIntosh County

On June 7, severe thunderstorms with heavy rains and small hail moved through the county. The Ashley area received heavy rains of up to two inches with some small hail. Downpours caused damages to crops due to washouts. The Wishek area received heavy rains up to three inches with some small hail causing damage to gardens and crops. The Venturia area received up to three inches of rain and strong winds. The Lehr area received up to three inches of rain with some small hail and strong winds causing damage to crops. The Zeeland area received up to three inches of rain. A local resident whose farm land is next to

Beaver Creek stated that it is up five to six feet, and if more rain is received, it will overflow.

McLean County

On June 8, rainfall ranged from one inch in Garrison to 1.5 inches in Washburn with heavy winds downing branches, causing street and yard litter. The County Highway Superintendent indicates two roads have water going over the tops.

Ransom County

Continuous rainfall has caused the land in the southeast corner of the county to become saturated. Farmers in this area have only planted 50 percent of their acreage.

Richland County

Up to 8 inches of rain fell during June 6-7, inundating fields and ditches and causing river rises. On June 6, the city of Wahpeton received three inches of rain in a short matter of time, resulting in several streets being flooded. The storm sewer system could not keep up. On June 7, the southeast area received excessive rains, pea size hail and high winds. The city of Fairmount reported trees uprooted and shingles blown off of houses.

Sioux County

On June 7, heavy rain fell throughout the county followed by high winds resulting in damage to several structures and highways that were inundated by overland flooding. N.D. Highway 6 and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Road 24 were closed for several hours from junction 21 to the South Dakota border. Parts of the county received four to six inches of rain within one and one half hours.

Steele County

On June 8, the USDA Emergency Board reported rainfall of up to seven inches, sometimes at a heavy rate, has occurred since June 3. The rainfall has caused much ponding in the fields throughout a majority of the county. Flash flooding caused some bridges to be washed out with water over the roads in several areas. Much erosion has occurred in the fields due to saturated soils; however, no emergency conservation appears to be required. It appears the corn stubble from last year will not get planted unless the current weather pattern changes. Final planting date for all beans is June 10, with estimated planting acres of 20,000 and prevented acres from planting to be estimated at 40,000 acres.

Ward County

On June 8, County Engineer and Minot Public Works began sandbagging operations as precautionary efforts in anticipation for impending rainfall forecasted through June 11. Up to one inch of rain in effected area has caused added damage to roads and residences not previously experiencing damages. County Engineers report road washouts in numerous locations.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: In addition to previous reports, the N.D. Game and Fish Department (NDGF) is providing assistance.

FEDERAL: In addition to previous reports, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Law Enforcement and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game and Fish Department are providing support.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Volunteers with the Dickey County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Ellendale Ambulance Service have been activated to assist with shelter operations in Ellendale.

The Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross is assisting the city of Edgeley with the needs of displaced families. On June 8, a representative from the Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross reported 40 breakfast snacks were served and 22 lunches provided. The Minn-Kota Chapter assisted a family of four and a family of five with lodging in Edgeley. The Red Cross continues to work with Emergency Management relative to any further identified unmet needs.

The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross continue to provide support in Ward County. Volunteers from Minot Air Force Base are currently supporting sandbag filling operations and are staffing an emergency hotline. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Job Corps are assisting in Ward County.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Governor's Chief of Staff, N.D. National Guard officials and staff from the N.D. Division of Homeland Security, formerly the Division of Emergency Management, participated on June 8 in site visits and aerial surveillances of the Edgeley, Ellendale and Wahpeton areas.

Dickey County

On June 8, Dickey County declared an emergency and activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Along Pheasant Lake, state Game and Fish members are assisting in the recovery of several boats, docks and debris which threaten to clog the spillways.

Staffs from the State Water Commission and an excavation company are expected to arrive this evening to assess the lake's dam.

Additionally, significant sandbagging operations are taking place and septic tanks along Pheasant Lake to the South Dakota border have been cleared to reduce the possibility of contamination.

The mayor of Oakes has requested technical assistance from the Department of Health regarding the potential for contaminated wells.

LaMoure County

Also on June 8, the city Edgeley issued a disaster declaration as a result of continual rains and damages to residential homes and infrastructure.

The N.D. Department of Health is providing technical assistance with cleanup and other health-related concerns.

Ward County

The Incident Commander has extended the operations of the Damage Assessment Call Center until 8:00 p.m. June 10 to handle additional reports of damage due to continued rains. The call center has received over 250 calls since opening on June 5.

Local news services are publicizing sandbag availability, flooding hazards and extended hotline operations.

The planned Civil Air Patrol flight to survey damaged areas has been postponed due to a low flight ceiling.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**: As indicated in major actions, assistance has been requested from the N.D. Department of Health, the State Water Commission and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE**: No changes from previous reports.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION**: The NWS lists quantitative precipitation forecasts on its website: www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director